HANDBALL CLUB TO BE REVIVED

Interim Committee: PRO Collum Ward, Chairperson Bernie Donnellan, Treasurer Gary Kilcar, Secretary Krystal Donnellan, and Youth Officer William Martin.

A passionate group of advocates, old and young, gathered in Gullane's Hotel to discuss the revival of the Derrymullen Handball Club, with the attendees proposing means of getting the local once loved sport on its feet again.

The sport of Handball has had a long history in Derrymullen, with the club being founded in 1920 playing on a 60x40 Court. The facility in the region was of a high standard, enticing legends in the sport including World Champions Jack Kirby and Joey Maher for sensational games of handball.

In 1986, the Committee decided to put up a smaller 40x20 court as they were restricted in space. Regardless the group operated well for a few decades, but unfortunately local interest gradually died in the years before the Covid pandemic and the club was disbanded by its Committee.

However, following a review of handball activity throughout the county, Outgoing President of GAA Handball - Dessie Keagan got in touch with the Derrymullen representatives to revitalize the game in the locality. Upon a recent visit by the head office, Dessie Keagan remarked how great the facility was and emphasized what an asset it had to be to the county.

The Committee and trustees gathered first with Keagan and Interim GAA Handball Manager Tom Moloney facilitating the prospect of having a community gathering to gauge interest in reinstating the club.

A second public meeting followed soon afterwards held in Gullanes Hotel, with strong interest in the revival project being demonstrated. Among the priorities for the revitalised club was making the sport accessible to younger generations who will carry on the future of Handball in the region.

An Interim Committee was appointed at the meeting, with Bernard Donnellan as Chairperson, Gary Kilcar as Treasurer, Collum Ward as PRO, Krystle Donnellan as Secretary and William Martin as Youth Officer.

"I want to get the club back up and running" outlined Interim Chairperson Bernard Donnellan, "I want to get youth in it and let it have a bit of a future". Interim Krystle Donnellan thanked Pierce Lawlor and Secretary Brian Mulcahy of the Galway County Board for their assistance in organising the meeting and acting as an intermediary between the Derrymullen crew and the head office.

First task for the Committee is to refurbish and reopen their current facility in Derrymullen and get the word out about the new Club. The Committee are encouraging the wider businesses community of to inform their customers about these developments and to potentially respond to any sponsorship bequests that they may commit to the cause.

June 10th is key date for Operation Transformation at the Alley where volunteers will mount a big clean up and clear out day.

Players past or present or people just interested should contact Krystal Donnellan at 085 342167 for further information.

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